Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A screen printing method for printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask plate, comprising:

a mask attachment step in which said work is brought into contact with the a lower surface of said mask plate;

~~a mask pressure step in which~~

a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the mask plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling paste into said pattern holes; and

a plate separating step in which the work is separated from the mask plate stepwise by a plate separating operation of repeating plural times an acceleration and deceleration pattern in which a moving speed at which said work is moved in the direction where the work separates from the mask plate is accelerated up to an upper limit speed and thereafter is decelerated up to a lower limit speed,

wherein an initial upper limit speed representing said upper limit speed in start of said plate separating operation is set higher than succeeding upper limit speeds representing the upper limit speeds from the middle of the plate separating operation on,

wherein in said plate separating operation, a plurality of

said acceleration and deceleration patterns are set so that said succeeding upper limit speed are decelerated gradually.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A screen printing method for printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask plate, comprising:

a mask attachment step in which said work is brought into contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;

a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the mask plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling paste into said pattern holes; and

a plate separating step in which the work is separated from the mask plate stepwise by a plate separating operation of repeating plural times an acceleration and deceleration pattern in which a moving speed at which said work is moved in the direction where the work separates from the mask plate is accelerated up to an upper limit speed and thereafter is decelerated up to a lower limit speed,

wherein an initial upper limit speed representing said upper limit speed in start of said plate separating operation is set higher than succeeding upper limit speeds representing the upper limit speeds from the middle of the plate separating operation on,

wherein in start of said plate separating operation, a plurality of said acceleration and deceleration patterns are set so that acceleration and deceleration is repeated at the nearly equal initial upper limit speed.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The screen printing method according to Claim [[1]] 2, wherein in the plate separating operation, said work is separated from the mask plate by causing the work to descend.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A screen printing method for printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask plate, comprising:

a mask attachment step in which said work is brought into contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;

~~a mask pressure step in which said work is raised further by a predetermined margin from a normal height position of a lower surface of the mask plate so that said contact between the work and the mask plate is in a state under pressure from below;~~

a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the mask plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling paste into said pattern holes; and

a plate separating step in which a plate separating operation of moving said work ~~plate~~ in the direction where the work separates from the mask plate is performed,

wherein in start of said plate separating operation, the moving speed is accelerated up to an upper limit speed and thereafter is decelerated up to a lower limit speed,

wherein in start of said plate separating operation, a plurality of acceleration and deceleration patterns are set so that acceleration and deceleration is repeated at nearly equal the upper limit speed, and

wherein thereafter deceleration is performed continuously

until said plate separating operation is completed.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~The screen printing method according to Claim 5,~~ A screen printing method for printing paste on a work via pattern holes formed on a mask plate, comprising:

a mask attachment step in which said work is brought into contact with the lower surface of said mask plate;

a squeegeeing step in which a squeegee is moved on the mask plate in the mask attachment state thereby to filling paste into said pattern holes; and

a plate separating step in which a plate separating operation of moving said work in the direction where the work separates from the mask plate is performed,

wherein in start of said plate separating operation, the moving speed is accelerated up to an upper limit speed and thereafter is decelerated up to a lower limit speed,

wherein in a process where in start of said plate separating operation, the moving speed is accelerated up to the upper limit speed and thereafter is decelerated up to the lower limit speed, acceleration and deceleration are not repeated but deceleration is performed continuously until said plate separating operation is completed.

Claim 7 (Original): The screen printing method according to Claim 5, wherein in the plate separating operation, said work is separated from the mask plate by causing the work to descend.